



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY CALLS FOR THOROUGH REVIEW OF RECOVERY EFFORTS

(Editor's Note to Radio Stations: Updated information regarding the press release is available at 733-1124.)

RALEIGH - Gov. Mike Easley today called for a thorough and swift review of recovery efforts following the ice storm that blanketed 40 North Carolina counties with up to one-inch of ice last week. The storm caused an unprecedented power outage to 1.7 million customers. As of today, approximately 49,000 customers are still without power and utility companies expect full restoration of power by midnight on Saturday.

"To date, our primary focus has been getting the lights and heat back on in homes across the state," said Easley. "Now that we are nearly complete in that effort, we must review the recovery response to determine what went right and what needs improvement. I have asked Crime Control and Public Safety Secretary Bryan Beatty to chair a small group to closely examine the response to this most recent disaster.

"Sec. Beatty will work closely with agencies and private companies involved in the response and will provide me with an interim report no later than the end of January. I have asked Secretaries Hooker Odom, Tippet and Ross to participate on this task force along with Utilities Commission Chair Jo Anne Sanford."

Secretary Beatty will chair the task force and will be joined by Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Carmen Hooker Odom, Department of Transportation Secretary Lyndo Tippet, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Bill Ross and Utilities Commission Chair Jo Anne Sanford. The group will hold its first meeting next week.

In addition to reviewing the state's broad emergency response, Easley asked the group to look at several specific issues, including:

- The overall state utility infrastructure;
- Timeliness and prioritization of utility restoration efforts;
- Preparedness of utility providers and others to respond to the disaster;
- Communications and outreach efforts, including outreach to non-English speaking residents;
- Response of social services providers;
- Coordination of federal assistance efforts;
- Debris removal efforts;
- Environmental issues related to the storm and its recovery; and
- Likelihood and frequency of similar events to occur in the future.